

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 A system for facilitating hemostasis of a puncture site in a blood vessel
injects an absorbable sponge pledget in a hydrated state at an exterior of the blood
vessel puncture to facilitate hemostasis. The system includes a tract dilator for
15 locating the puncture, an introducer, and a plunger. The introducer includes a
staging chamber for receiving the absorbent sponge pledget and a delivery
chamber having a diameter smaller than a diameter of the staging chamber into
which a hydrated pledget passes. The pledget is hydrated and compressed within
the introducer and then ejected with the plunger to the delivery site to facilitate
15 hemostasis of the blood vessel puncture. The system delivers the absorbable
sponge pledget over a guidewire to ensure the proper positioning of the pledget
over the puncture. The implanted absorbable sponge once delivered expands
rapidly to fill the target site and is absorbed by the body over time.